

Reference No. 6.9

SURVEY OF LEAVERS FROM SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES OR OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS  
FEBRUARY 1974



MAIN FEATURES

- One-third of all civilians aged 15 to 24 years attended an educational institution full-time in 1973 (Table 1).
- Of those who attended full-time about one third (30.2 per cent) did not intend to return to full-time education in 1974 (Table 1).
- 93.6 per cent of these leavers were in the labour force in February 1974. Of those in the labour force 90.6 per cent were employed and 9.4 per cent were unemployed (Table 6).
- About one-quarter (23.0 per cent) of school leavers intended to study full-time at a post-school educational institution in 1974 (Table 3).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

In February 1974 a survey, based on the quarterly population survey sample, was conducted throughout Australia in order to obtain information about persons aged 15 to 24 years who had attended full-time at a school, university or other educational institution at some time during 1973. Separate information was obtained in respect of persons who were intending to return to full-time education and those who were not returning to full-time education (described in this publication as leavers). This survey continued the series of surveys which have been carried out in February of each year from 1964.

The population survey

2. The survey is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 30,000 houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.) and covers about two-thirds of one per cent of the population of Australia. The information is obtained from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers, the interviews being carried out during a four-week period.

Scope

3. The estimates in this publication relate to all persons aged 15 to 24 years, except members of the permanent armed forces and certain diplomatic personnel customarily excluded from census and estimated populations. Persons who were patients in hospitals and sanatoria or inmates of gaols, reformatories, etc., and for whom, for the purpose of the survey, the institution was regarded as their dwelling, and persons reported as permanently unable to work were not asked the survey questions. An estimate of the total number of such persons is shown in Table 1.

Classification of the labour force

4. The labour force classification used in the population survey conforms closely to that recommended by the Eighth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 1954. The labour force category to which a person is assigned depends on his *actual activity* (i.e. whether working, looking for work, etc.) during a specified week, known as *survey week*, which is the week immediately preceding that in which the interview takes place. The principal categories of the labour force are defined in the following paragraphs.

5. **The labour force** comprises all persons who, during the survey week, were employed or unemployed as defined in paragraphs 6 and 7 below.

6. **Employed persons** comprise all those who, during the survey week,

- (a) did any work for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or business, or on a farm (including employees, employers and self-employed persons), or
- (b) worked fifteen hours or more without pay in a family business (or farm), or
- (c) had a job, business or farm, but were not at work because of illness, accident, leave, holiday, production hold-up due to bad weather, plant breakdown, etc., or because they were on strike.



A person who had a job but was temporarily laid off by his employer for the whole week without pay is excluded, and is classified as unemployed. A person who did some work during the week, however, before he either lost his job or was laid off, is classified as employed. A person who held more than one job is counted only once, in the job at which he worked most hours during the survey week.

7. **Unemployed persons** comprise all those who, during the survey week, did no work at all, and who either

(a) did not have a job or business and were actively looking for full-time or part-time work (including those who stated that they would have looked for work if they had not been temporarily ill or believed no work was available, or had not already made definite arrangements to start work in a new job after the survey week), or

(b) were laid off from their jobs without pay for the whole week.

A person who either lost his job or was laid off *during* the survey week, but did some work at his job during the survey week, is classified as employed.

8. **Persons not in the labour force** are those who, during the survey week, were not in the categories 'employed' or 'unemployed' as defined. This category therefore includes persons without a job, business or farm who were not actively looking for work, and who, during the survey week, were either keeping house (unpaid), attending an educational institution (e.g. school or university), retired or voluntarily idle, permanently unable to work or inmates of institutions. A person who worked less than fifteen hours without

pay in a family business during the survey week is also classified as not in the labour force.

### Discontinuity of series

9. Most of the estimates in this bulletin are not comparable with those obtained from surveys conducted in 1971 and earlier years because trainee teachers (enrolled at Colleges of Advanced Education and in some cases enrolled also at other institutions), who were formerly classified as in the labour force are now included in the category "attended an educational institution full time in the previous year". It is estimated that in August 1971 there were about 7,000 males and 17,000 females who were reclassified in population surveys as not in the labour force.

10. Prior to February 1973, estimates of leavers by industry were classified in accordance with the 1966 Population Census Classification of Industries. The basis of industry classification now used in these surveys is the Australian Standard Industrial Classification.

### Labour force characteristics of leavers

11. All persons covered by the survey were asked questions about their occupational status and those in the labour force were further questioned about their occupation and industry. Employment status is shown in Table 6 for leavers, but not for persons returning to full-time education. Although many of these latter persons were in the labour force at the time of the survey, their numbers would not give a useful indication of the extent of vacation employment because "survey week" (see paragraph 4) extended from the first to the fourth week in February. Hence, between the first and last survey weeks, the level of vacation jobholding would have decreased substantially.

NOTE. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in the tables are due to rounding.

TABLE 1. - PERSONS AGED 15 TO 24 YEARS(a), FULL-TIME ATTENDANCE OR NON-ATTENDANCE AT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Attended an educational institution full-time in the previous year (b)					Did not attend an educational institution full time in the previous year (b) ( <i>'000</i> )	In hospitals, etc. (e) ( <i>'000</i> )	Total persons aged 15 to 24 years ( <i>'000</i> )
February	Leavers (c) ( <i>'000</i> )	Non-leavers (d)		Total ( <i>'000</i> )			
		( <i>'000</i> )	Per cent of total				
MALES							
1970	95.1	232.4	71.0	327.5	733.9	9.5	1,070.9
1971	103.3	247.9	70.6	351.2	741.8	11.6	1,104.6
1972	101.2	262.8	72.2	364.0	744.6	11.6	1,120.1
1973	114.8	281.0	71.0	395.9	719.2	15.6	1,130.7
1974	119.4	283.3	70.3	402.7	722.7	12.1	1,137.5
FEMALES							
1970	91.7	180.6	66.3	272.3	777.6	4.6	1,054.5
1971	100.5	194.0	65.9	294.5	784.0	5.5	1,084.0
1972	92.0	225.4	71.0	317.3	774.1	7.0	1,098.4
1973	103.7	245.2	70.3	348.9	750.2	8.3	1,107.3
1974	109.9	246.9	69.2	356.8	753.7	*	1,114.3
PERSONS							
1970	186.8	413.0	68.9	599.8	1,511.5	14.0	2,125.4
1971	203.8	441.9	68.4	645.6	1,525.8	17.1	2,188.6
1972	193.1	488.2	71.7	681.3	1,518.7	18.6	2,218.5
1973	218.5	526.2	70.7	744.7	1,469.4	23.9	2,238.0
1974	229.4	530.2	69.8	759.6	1,476.5	15.8	2,251.8

(a) Age at the time of the survey. (b) Excludes some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and some inmates of gaols, reformatories, etc., at the time of the survey, and persons permanently unable to work who were not asked the survey questions. (c) Persons who were not returning to full-time education. (d) Persons who were returning to full-time education. (e) Estimated numbers of persons for whom the hospital, sanatorium, gaol, reformatory, etc., was regarded as their dwelling and persons who were reported as permanently unable to work. Particulars of attendance at schools, etc., were not obtained in respect of such persons.

\* Less than 4,000. See page 7, paragraph 4.

NOTE. See page 2, paragraph 9, regarding discontinuity of the series.

TABLE 2. - PERSONS AGED 15 TO 24 YEARS (a) : TYPE OF INSTITUTION ATTENDED 1973, AGE AND BIRTHPLACE (*'000*)

	Males			Females			Persons		
	Aged 15 to 19 years	Aged 20 to 24 years	Total	Aged 15 to 19 years	Aged 20 to 24 years	Total	Aged 15 to 19 years	Aged 20 to 24 years	Total
BORN IN AUSTRALIA									
Attended an educational institution full time in 1973	298.3	46.4	344.7	282.6	31.6	314.2	581.0	78.0	658.9
School	273.2	*	274.6	247.2	*	247.7	520.4	*	522.3
University	14.4	31.1	45.5	10.1	17.2	27.3	24.5	48.3	72.8
College of Advanced Education (b)	7.9	11.1	19.0	12.0	13.1	25.1	19.9	24.2	44.1
Other	*	*	5.7	13.4	*	14.1	16.2	*	19.7
Did not attend full time in 1973	203.1	381.2	584.3	209.4	400.8	610.2	412.5	782.0	1,194.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>501.5</b>	<b>427.6</b>	<b>929.0</b>	<b>492.1</b>	<b>432.4</b>	<b>924.4</b>	<b>993.5</b>	<b>859.9</b>	<b>1,853.4</b>
BORN OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA									
Attended an educational institution full time in 1973	48.5	9.5	58.0	37.5	5.1	42.6	86.0	14.6	100.6
School	44.8	*	45.7	34.7	*	34.7	79.5	*	80.3
University	*	6.1	7.8	*	*	*	*	8.0	10.5
Other (c)	*	*	4.5	*	*	5.3	4.1	5.8	9.8
Did not attend full time in 1973	33.5	105.0	138.4	39.3	104.3	143.6	72.8	209.2	282.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>82.0</b>	<b>114.5</b>	<b>196.4</b>	<b>76.8</b>	<b>109.4</b>	<b>186.2</b>	<b>158.8</b>	<b>223.8</b>	<b>382.6</b>

(a) At the time of the survey. See also footnote (b) to Table 1. (b) Includes teacher training college. (c) Includes College of Advanced Education.

\* Less than 4,000. See page 7, paragraph 4.



TABLE 3. – PERSONS AGED 15 TO 24 YEARS (a) : TYPE OF INSTITUTION ATTENDED 1973, LEAVERS AND NON-LEAVERS ('000)

	Institution attended full time in 1973					
	School	University	College of Advanced Education (b)	Technical College	Other	Total
MALES						
Leavers	97.8	9.8	7.9	*	*	119.4
Non-leavers	222.4	43.5	14.7	*	*	283.3
Returning to –						
Same type of institution (c)	199.8	42.6	14.6	*	*	259.6
Different type of institution (c)	22.6	*	*	*	*	23.7
Total	320.2	53.3	22.6	4.7	*	402.7
FEMALES						
Leavers	78.9	6.9	11.4	8.5	4.3	109.9
Non-leavers	203.5	23.1	16.5	*	*	246.9
Returning to –						
Same type of institution (c)	173.2	22.3	15.5	*	*	214.6
Different type of institution (c)	30.3	*	*	*	*	32.3
Total	282.4	30.0	27.8	10.3	6.3	356.8
PERSONS						
Leavers	176.8	16.7	19.2	11.2	5.5	229.4
Non-leavers	425.8	66.6	31.2	*	*	530.2
Returning to –						
Same type of institution (c)	373.0	64.9	30.1	*	*	474.2
Different type of institution (c)	52.8	*	*	*	*	55.9
Total	602.6	83.3	50.4	15.0	8.3	759.6

(a) At the time of the survey. See also footnote (b) to Table 1. (b) Includes teacher training college. (c) As the survey was conducted in February 1974 the estimates shown will partly reflect expectations as to the institution to be attended.

\* Less than 4,000. See page 7, paragraph 4.

TABLE 4. – LEAVERS (a) : TIME OF LEAVING, FEBRUARY 1974 ('000)

Time of leaving	Persons aged 15-19 years			Persons aged 15-24 years		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
January-June 1973	11.5	9.2	20.7	12.9	10.2	23.1
July-October 1973	14.1	15.1	29.2	15.9	16.1	32.0
November 1973	44.4	41.4	85.8	54.2	50.9	105.1
December 1973(b)	32.2	27.5	59.7	36.5	32.8	69.3
Total	102.2	93.1	195.3	119.4	109.9	229.4

(a) Persons aged 15 to 24 years in February 1974 who had attended school, university, etc., full time during 1973 and who were not returning to full-time education. See also footnote (b) to Table 1. (b) Includes a small number of persons who left school, university etc., in January or February 1974.



TABLE 5. – LEAVERS (a) : AGE AT TIME OF LEAVING, FEBRUARY 1974  
(’000)

Age at time of leaving (years)	Attended school in 1973			Attended any educational institution (b) in 1973		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
14	4.4	*	7.6	4.4	*	7.6
15	32.8	31.0	63.8	33.0	32.0	64.9
16	27.5	25.9	53.4	28.4	30.4	58.7
17	21.1	12.3	33.3	22.1	16.9	39.0
18	10.2	5.9	16.1	12.3	8.9	21.2
19 and over	*	*	*	19.4	18.6	38.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>97.8</b>	<b>79.0</b>	<b>176.8</b>	<b>119.4</b>	<b>109.9</b>	<b>229.4</b>

(a) See footnote (a) to Table 4. (b) Includes schools.

\* Less than 4,000. See page 7, paragraph 4.

TABLE 6. – LEAVERS (a) : STATE, EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND BIRTHPLACE, FEBRUARY 1974

State	Employment status				Total leavers			
	Employed (b) (’000)	Unemployed (’000)	Total in the labour force (’000)	Not in the labour force (’000)	Aged 15-19 years (’000)	Aged 20-24 years (’000)	Number (’000)	Participation rate (c) (per cent)
<b>MALES</b>								
New South Wales	39.5	*	42.8	*	37.4	7.3	44.6	95.9
Victoria	25.3	*	27.4	*	24.5	4.3	28.9	94.9
Queensland	14.7	*	16.1	*	15.7	*	17.3	93.0
South Australia	10.1	*	11.3	*	10.0	*	11.3	100.0
Western Australia	9.2	*	10.7	*	9.4	*	11.2	95.4
Tasmania	*	*	4.4	*	*	*	4.6	94.9
<b>Australia (d)</b>	<b>103.8</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>114.0</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>102.2</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>119.4</b>	<b>95.5</b>
Born in Australia	90.1	8.1	98.2	4.8	n.a.	n.a.	103.1	95.3
Born outside Australia	13.7	*	15.8	*	n.a.	n.a.	16.4	96.4
<b>FEMALES</b>								
New South Wales	34.5	*	37.1	*	33.7	6.3	40.0	92.8
Victoria	22.8	*	25.9	*	23.8	5.1	28.8	89.8
Queensland	13.8	*	15.4	*	14.9	*	17.3	88.8
South Australia	7.5	*	8.5	*	7.8	*	8.9	95.3
Western Australia	7.0	*	7.8	*	7.9	*	8.4	92.9
Tasmania	*	*	4.5	*	4.3	*	4.9	92.4
<b>Australia (d)</b>	<b>90.7</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>100.7</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>93.1</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>109.9</b>	<b>91.6</b>
Born in Australia	79.6	9.4	89.0	7.1	n.a.	n.a.	96.0	92.6
Born outside Australia	11.1	*	11.7	*	n.a.	n.a.	13.9	84.1
<b>PERSONS</b>								
New South Wales	74.0	5.9	79.9	4.7	71.1	13.5	84.6	94.4
Victoria	48.1	5.2	53.3	4.4	48.3	9.4	57.7	92.4
Queensland	28.5	*	31.5	*	30.6	4.0	34.6	90.9
South Australia	17.7	*	19.8	*	17.8	*	20.2	98.0
Western Australia	16.2	*	18.4	*	17.3	*	19.6	94.3
Tasmania	7.1	*	8.9	*	8.2	*	9.5	93.6
<b>Australia (d)</b>	<b>194.5</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>214.7</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>195.3</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>229.4</b>	<b>93.6</b>
Born in Australia	169.7	17.5	187.2	11.9	n.a.	n.a.	199.1	94.0
Born outside Australia	24.8	*	27.5	*	n.a.	n.a.	30.3	90.7

(a) See footnote (a) to Table 4. (b) Includes wage and salary earners, employers, self-employed persons and unpaid family helpers. (c) Leavers in the labour force as a percentage of total leavers. (d) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

\* Less than or based on a figure less than 4,000. See page 7, paragraph 4.

n.a. – not available



TABLE 7. – EMPLOYED LEAVERS (a) : INDUSTRY, FEBRUARY 1974  
(<sup>000</sup>)

<i>Industry division or sub-division (b)</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	6.4	*	7.1
Manufacturing	27.2	11.7	38.9
Food, beverages and tobacco	*	*	6.3
Metal products	6.0	*	7.4
Other manufacturing	17.3	8.0	25.3
Construction	15.4	*	15.5
Wholesale and retail trade	25.1	27.6	52.7
Wholesale trade	6.4	5.6	12.0
Retail trade	18.7	22.0	40.7
Transport, storage and communication	5.1	*	6.1
Finance, insurance, real estate and business services	9.7	18.3	28.0
Community services (c)	7.7	21.9	29.7
Entertainment, recreation, restaurants, hotels and personal services	*	4.3	5.7
Other (d)	5.7	5.1	10.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>103.8</b>	<b>90.7</b>	<b>194.5</b>

(a) See footnote (a) to Table 4. Includes wage and salary earners, employers, self-employed persons and unpaid family helpers. (b) Based on the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (see page 2, paragraph 10). (c) Comprises health, education, libraries, etc.; welfare and religious institutions; and other community services. (d) Comprises mining; electricity, gas and water; and public administration and defence.

\* Less than 4,000. See page 7, paragraph 4.

TABLE 8. – EMPLOYED LEAVERS (a) : OCCUPATION, FEBRUARY 1974  
(<sup>000</sup>)

<i>Occupation group</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Professional and technical	11.3	19.6	31.0
Administrative, executive, managerial and clerical	17.2	41.6	58.8
Sales	6.8	16.6	23.4
Farmers, fishermen, timber-getters, etc.	6.4	*	7.0
Transport and communication	*	*	4.4
Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers (n.e.c.)	56.8	4.8	61.5
Service, sport and recreation	*	6.2	8.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>103.8</b>	<b>90.7</b>	<b>194.5</b>

(a) See footnote (a) to Table 4. Includes wage and salary earners, employers, self-employed persons and unpaid family helpers.

\* Less than 4,000. See page 7, paragraph 4.



## TECHNICAL NOTE

### Estimation procedure

The estimates are derived from the quarterly population survey by use of a complex ratio estimation procedure, which ensures that the survey estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population by age and sex, rather than to the age and sex distribution within the sample itself.

### Reliability of the estimates

2. Since the estimates are based on a sample, they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained from a complete census using the same questionnaires and procedures. One measure of the likely difference is given by the *standard error*, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample, and not the whole population, was enumerated. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained from a comparable complete enumeration, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

3. A table of *standard errors* is given below. An example of the use of the table is as follows : if the estimate obtained from the sample is 100,000 and the standard error is 3 per cent of the estimate, i.e. 3,000, there are about two chances in three that the true figure is within the range 97,000 to 103,000 and about nineteen chances in twenty that this figure is between 94,000 and 106,000.

### STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate (persons)	Approximate standard error of estimates	
	Persons	Per cent of estimate
4,000	800	20.0
5,000	900	18.0
10,000	1,200	12.0
20,000	1,600	8.0
50,000	2,300	4.6
100,000	3,000	3.0
200,000	4,000	2.0
500,000	6,000	1.2
1,000,000	8,000	0.8
2,000,000	10,000	0.5

4. In the tables in this bulletin only estimates of 4,000 or over have been shown, as smaller estimates would be subject to such high standard errors (relative to the size of the estimate) as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses. Although, in some cases, figures for these small components can be derived by subtraction, they should not be regarded as reliable.

5. The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon both the size of the numerator and the size of the denominator. However, the percentage standard error of the estimated percentage will generally be lower than the per cent standard error of the estimate of the numerator. The per cent standard error of the numerator can be obtained from the table above.

6. The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the standard error, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as the *non-sampling error*, and they may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or only a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures.

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr D. Power on 63 9111 extension 2346 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.